

Boston University

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Office of the Dean



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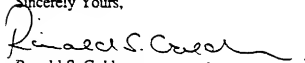
Dr. Saul Gefter
United States Information Agency
Afghan Media Project
301 4th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20547

February 28, 1987

Dear Dr. Gefter:

Please find enclosed the January 1987 report for the Afghan Media Project, grant # IA22463-19-G.

Sincerely Yours,


Ronald S. Goldman
Associate Dean

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The Afghan Media project

Grant #IA22463-19-G

Program Report Period January 1-31, 1987

Boston University was now formally responsible for carrying out the detailed work plan prepared by Hearst. That work plan for the establishment of the Afghan News Service made it quite clear that all future activity depended upon the nomination of an Afghan Director of the News Agency.

Dr. Ronald Goldman of Boston University visited Pakistan to oversee the initiation of the training program (see special report on this trip prepared by Dr. Goldman). While he was in Pakistan he was told repeatedly by Mr. Kent Obee of USIA that the Pakistan government was close to nominating an acceptable candidate to direct the news service. He was told that the Pakistan government had finally received nominations for the Director from the Afghan parties and that what now was required was for the Pakistan Afghan "cell" (task force) to meet to make a final decision.

As is clear from Dr. Goldman's travel report he was pessimistic about the likelihood that a Director would ever be named by the Pakistani government. However, Mr. Kent Obee continued to be quite optimistic. As a result it was necessary to simply put all Afghan New Agency activity on hold until such time that the Director was named or until such time that all parties were ready to face the fact that another plan would have to be developed.

In the meantime arrangements for the first training program were made, even though Mr. Obee had advised against the arrival of the Boston University team. His reasoning was that this might disrupt the delicate state of the negotiations over the appointment of the News Director. However, the Boston University team did make arrangements with several existing news services in Peshawar and training was due to commence on February 1, 1987. This was good news as far as the future news service was concerned since, if a news Director would be named, he would have available a pool of trained field reporters.

No monies from the grant were expended during this month.